

LIBRARY

**THE MUSEUM
OF MODERN ART**

Received:

Scanned from the collection of
The Museum of Modern Art Library

Coordinated by the
Media History Digital Library
www.mediahistoryproject.org

Funded by a donation from
John McElwee



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

<https://archive.org/details/biographicalinfo00unse>



APR 23 1935



Biographical Information
on
RKO RADIO PICTURES
Personalities

From:
Rutgers Neilson
RKO-RADIO PICTURES
RKO BUILDING
RADIO CITY, NEW YORK

81
R529

FL
1355

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

The Biographies Are Listed
in
Alphabetical Order

— Fred Astaire	Gene Lockhart
— James Barton	Lily Pons
— John Beal	— William Powell
— Eric Blore	— Gregory Ratoff
— Chick Chandler	— Virginia Reid
— Richard Dix	— Erik Rhodes
— Steffi Duna	— Ginger Rogers
— Irene Dunne	Sleep 'N' Eat
— Wynne Gibson	Anne Shirley
— Betty Grable	— Frankie Thomas
— Alan Hale	— Thelma Todd
— Margaret Hamilton	Helen Westley
— Ann Harding	— Bert Wheeler
— Katharine Hepburn	John Wood
— Pert Kelton	Robert Woolsey
— Francis Lederer	

APR 23 1935

FL 1355

1911年
11月
11日

1911年 11月 11日

11

1911年 11月 11日

11

1911年 11月 11日

1911年 11月 11日



FRED ASTAIRE

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Fred Astaire was born in Omaha, Neb.
Height - 5 feet, 9 inches. Slender.
Dark brown eyes and hair. Once owned
racing stable in England. Likes tennis,
golf, prize fights. Birthday - Nov. 26)

EARLY LIFE

Fred Astaire's boyhood was spent on the stage.

and

By the time he was eight he and his sister Adele

STAGE CAREER

were appearing in vaudeville at \$200 a week -
important money for children.

Their fame as dancers grew rapidly, and they
were Broadway stars while still very young. They
appeared in "Apple Blossoms," "The Love Letter,"
"For Goodness Sake," "The Bunch and Judy," "Lady
Be Good," "Funny Face," "Smiles" and "The Band
Wagon." Three of these musical comedies took the
Astaires to London, where they became the rage,
both in the theatre and in society.

In 1931 Adele retired from the stage and
married Lord Cavendish of London. Fred, continu-
ing his career alone, had one of his greatest succes-
ses in "The Gay Divorce" in both New York and London.
About this time Fred married Phyllis Livingstone
Potter.

SCREEN CAREER

Astaire made his screen debut as a dancing com-
edian in RKO Radio's "Flying Down to Rio."

(continued)

His success was immediate, and after playing in Joan Crawford's "The Dancing Lady," RKO Radio at once co-starred him with Ginger Rogers in "The Gay Divorcee," screen version of his last stage hit. His success in this picture led RKO Radio to sign him for seven years. Following "Divorcee" he appears in "Roberta" with Irene Dunne and Ginger Rogers, and in "In Person."

Long known as one of the greatest dancers in the world, Fred Astaire is now rated one of the finest light comedians on either stage or screen.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

JAMES BARTON

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(James Barton was born at Gloucester, N. J., November 1, 1890. Baseball fan, owning own park at Babylon, L. I. Always attends six-day bike races in New York)

STAGE CAREER

James Barton is the third of a line of theatrical folk. His maternal grandfather owned music halls in Virginia. His father, James C. Barton, was a minstrel man, and his mother, Clara Barton, appeared in vaudeville and dramatic shows. At two, Jim was on the stage in a cradle in "The Silver King," with his parents heading the cast. At four, Barton appeared in a burlesque sketch in Louisville. The kid played a policeman and arrested his father. Jim got what schooling he could while traveling with his parents. After a brief tour in vaudeville with Dave Osmond, Barton went to work for his grandfather in Virginia and got most of his stage training in repertoire there. He toured with the Guy Johnson Stock Co. In his early twenties he made his first New York appearance, in burlesque, and was a noted figure in that field for several years.

Barton first came to wide notice during the actor's strike in 1919. Ed Wynn was restrained by the Shuberts from going on at a big benefit, and the unknown Barton volunteered to take his place. He did, and was a sensa-

(continued)

CONFIDENTIAL
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

tion. The name was established on Broadway, and Jim has been a big theatrical figure ever since. He has been noted for his tap-dancing, and he made the tune "Anne-belle Lee" famous. His comedy, especially his drunk impersonation, has been a perennial favorite.

Among the musical shows in which he appeared were "Passing Show of 1919," "The Rose of Stamboul," "The Last Waltz," "Dew Drop In," Ziegfeld's "Palm Beach Nights," "No Foolin'", and "Artists and Models." Between shows he was an established vaudeville favorite. When Henry Hull left "Tobacco Road" on June 18, 1934, Barton went into the big dramatic part and was sensationally successful. He played "Jeeter Lester" in that play for six months.

SCREEN CAREER

Outside of a few short subjects, James Barton had never appeared in pictures. RKO Radio signed him, and he left "Tobacco Road" to go to Hollywood. His first film was "Captain Hurricane."

#####

The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. The letter is a formal communication, and it is written in a very formal and dignified style. The President begins by addressing the Congress, and then he proceeds to discuss the state of the Union. He mentions the recent election of Abraham Lincoln as President, and he expresses his confidence in the new administration. He also discusses the issue of slavery, and he states that he will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The letter is a very important document, and it is a good example of the style of the time.

The second part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. The letter is a formal communication, and it is written in a very formal and dignified style. The Secretary begins by addressing the Congress, and then he proceeds to discuss the state of the Treasury. He mentions the recent election of Abraham Lincoln as President, and he expresses his confidence in the new administration. He also discusses the issue of slavery, and he states that he will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The letter is a very important document, and it is a good example of the style of the time.

The third part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the Interior to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. The letter is a formal communication, and it is written in a very formal and dignified style. The Secretary begins by addressing the Congress, and then he proceeds to discuss the state of the Interior. He mentions the recent election of Abraham Lincoln as President, and he expresses his confidence in the new administration. He also discusses the issue of slavery, and he states that he will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The letter is a very important document, and it is a good example of the style of the time.

The fourth part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the War to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. The letter is a formal communication, and it is written in a very formal and dignified style. The Secretary begins by addressing the Congress, and then he proceeds to discuss the state of the War. He mentions the recent election of Abraham Lincoln as President, and he expresses his confidence in the new administration. He also discusses the issue of slavery, and he states that he will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The letter is a very important document, and it is a good example of the style of the time.

The fifth part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. The letter is a formal communication, and it is written in a very formal and dignified style. The Secretary begins by addressing the Congress, and then he proceeds to discuss the state of the Navy. He mentions the recent election of Abraham Lincoln as President, and he expresses his confidence in the new administration. He also discusses the issue of slavery, and he states that he will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The letter is a very important document, and it is a good example of the style of the time.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

JOHN BEAL

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(John Beal was born on August 13 in Joplin, Mo. Received his dramatic training at Jasper Deeter's famous Hedgerow Theatre. Is an accomplished sketch artist and pianist.)

EARLY LIFE

John Beal has never had any real interest but THE stage. As a lad in Joplin he was the leading man in high school dramatics, and after school tinkered with settings and lights and productions in the family barn. At the University of Pennsylvania he was an important member of the famous Mask and Wig Club.

STAGE CAREER

Out of college, Beal went at once to Jasper Deeter's famous Hedgerow Theatre at Rose Valley, Pa., where Ann Harding received much of her training. That was in 1930. Arriving on Broadway, he got a job as understudy and assistant stage manager of "Give Me Yesterday." Later he supported Osgood Perkins in "Wild Waves." As Jerry in "Another Language" he attracted wide attention, and made his screen debut in the picture version of that hit.

SCREEN CAREER

Following RKO Radio's "Hat, Coat and Glove," Beal received his finest role, opposite Katharine Hepburn in "The Little Minister." "Laddie" is his next assignment.

#####

[Faint, illegible text]

Journal of the American Medical Association

1900

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

ERIC BLORE

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Eric Blore was born in London, Eng., Dec. 23. 5 feet, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall. Weighs 172 lbs. Ardent golfer. Married and has one son.)

EARLY LIFE Eric Blore is the son of Henry Blore, a well-known English educator and scholar. Eric was educated at a private school in London, where he took part in amateur theatricals. He did not go to college, but began life in the world as an insurance salesman, which job he loathed.

STAGE CAREER At 20, however, he struck up a friendship with the famous English actor, G. P. Huntley, who persuaded young Blore to go to Australia with him as a member of his famous "Merry Makers" company. Blore went, over his father's violent objections, and spent a year touring the British colonies. Blore's London debut was sad. At the Paragon Music Hall he followed the British idol, Sir Harry Lauder, on the bill and naturally, in Broadway language "died." However, luck turned, and he soon became known in London as an actor in, and writer of, several musical comedies and reviews.

When the war came, Blore joined up with the Artists' Rifles, and saw active service with them and other battalions until the end of hostilities. He also served with

(continued)



1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

1940-1941

the Royal Air Force, as an observer in planes and captive balloons. After the war he continued his career as an actor both in London and New York. His best work was done with Fred Astaire in "The Gay Divorce," which brought them both to Hollywood and pictures.

SCREEN CAREER When RKO Radio decided to film "The Gay Divorce" Blore went to Hollywood with others of the stage cast, including Astaire, the star. Eric's work as the gabby, helpful waiter in the picture was so outstanding that RKO Radio gave him a term contract, with other studios wanting his services.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

CHICK CHANDLER

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Chick Chandler was born in Kingston, N.Y. January 18. Height, 5 ft., 9 in. Weight, 140 lbs. Blue-green eyes, brown hair. Gol and swimming. Married to Jean Frontai, formerly of the stage.)

EARLY LIFE

Chick Chandler's father was Col. Dr. George F. Chandler, retired army surgeon and founder of the New York State Police. His uncle is the artist, Howard Chandler Christy, and his grandfather founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Chick attended the Manlius Military Academy, where his roommate was Teddy Amundsen, nephew of the explorer.

STAGE CAREER

Young Chandler wrote, directed and acted in school productions, and entered vaudeville, with dances, songs and witty sayings. At other times in her career he has been a steward on a liner and a burlesque comedian. His first Broadway hit was "Pleasure Bound," in which Jack Pearl starred. He was rehearsing the lead in "The Great Magoo" when RKO Radio brought him to Hollywood.

SCREEN CAREER

He made his film debut in "Sweepings," in which Lionel Barrymore appeared. His first big hit was with Charlie Ruggles in "Melody Cruise," which won him a term contract. He has also appeared in a series of two-reel comedies for RKO Radio.

#####

...and the ...

Frederic Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

RICHARD DIX

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Richard Dix was born in St. Paul, Minn. on July 18. Height, 6 feet. Weight, 180 lbs. Dark brown hair and eyes. Lives on a ranch near Hollywood. Golf and tennis his favorite sports. Is a dog fancier.)

EARLY LIFE

Richard Dix (born Ernest Carlton Brimmer) was educated at the St. Paul High School, and besides being a football and baseball player was a prominent member of the school dramatic club. He attended the University of Minnesota for a year. He worked in a bank, then in an architect's office, studying dramatics at night.

STAGE CAREER

Dix began his stage career in stock companies. After a brief Broadway career, he went west to play leads in the then-famous Morosco Stock Company in Los Angeles.

SCREEN CAREER

Naturally he tried pictures, and clicked. He was with Paramount a long time, among his many pictures being, "The Vanishing American," "Woman-Handled," "The Quarterback," "Redskin," and many others. Dix then signed a long-term contract with RKO Radio Pictures, and has appeared in "Seven Keys to Baldpate," "Jimarron," "The Great Jasper," "Shooting Straight," "The Public Defender," "Donovan's Kid,"

(continued)

Handwritten notes in the top right corner, possibly a date or reference.

Handwritten title or heading in the center of the page.

Handwritten text line below the title.

Main body of handwritten text, possibly a paragraph or list.

Large block of handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a conclusion or detailed notes.

"Secret Service," "No Marriage Ties," "Ace of Aces,"
"The Conquerors," "His Greatest Gamble," "Hell's
Highway," "Stingaree" and "West of the Pecos."

Last year Dix married Virginia Webster, his
former secretary.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

STEFFI DUNA

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Steffi Duna was born in Budapest, Hungary. Height, 5 feet, 2 inches. Weight, 110 lbs. Dark eyes, black hair.)

STAGE CAREER

Steffi Duna began her training for the ballet in early childhood, and at eleven made her dance debut at the Budapest Opera. She later toured Europe, dancing as "Steffi, The Wonder Child." In Berlin, later, she appeared in "Wonder Bar" with Francis Lederer, and then appeared on the London stage in Noel Coward's "Words and Music." She became a great musical comedy favorite. After playing in two English films, "The Indiscretions of Love" and "The Iron Stair," she came to New York and scored a great personal success on Broadway in the leading role of "The Beggar's Opera."

SCREEN CAREER

Hollywood then claimed her, and she made her American screen debut opposite Francis Lederer in "Man of Two Worlds." RKO Radio signed her to a term contract. She appeared in "La Cucaracha," the epoch-making two reel Technicolor subject, and was then featured in "Red Morning" by her home studio. RKO Radio expects much of Steffi.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

IRENE DUNNE

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Irene Dunne was born in Louisville, Ky., on December 20th. Height - 5 feet, 4 inches. Weight - 115 lbs. Dark hair, blue-grey eyes. One of the best women golfers in pictures)

EARLY LIFE

Irene Dunne was brought up in Louisville where she attended the Loretta Academy. Her father, Captain Joseph J. Dunne, was a veteran riverman who later held an executive post in the federal government. Her musical education began in her early girlhood, and later she attended the Chicago College of Music, studying both voice and languages.

STAGE CAREER

Her lovely lyric soprano voice soon became well known in operatta and musical comedy. She had prima donna roles in "Sweetheart Time," "The Clinging Vine" and a revival of "Irene" - from which show she was taken by RKO Radio Pictures for a film test which proved successful. She was with the Metropolitan Opera for a year.

SCREEN CAREER

Miss Dunne's first film role was in "Leathernecking." Cast as Sabra opposite Richard Dix in "Cimarron," she won nation-wide acclaim from critics and public, and stardom was certain. She has played in "Consolation Marriage," "Symphony of Six Million," "Bachelor Apartment," "Thirteen

(continued)

Women," "Back Street" (for Universal), "No Other Woman," "The Silver Cord," "Ann Vickers," "If I Were Free," "This Man is Mine," "Stingaree," "The Age of Innocence" and "Roberta."

Miss Dunne is enthusiastic about her picture work, and is earliest on the set. She is also interested in the study of astronomy, and knows more about stars in heaven than in Hollywood.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

WYNNE GIBSON

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Wynne Gibson - real name, Winifred Gibson - was born in New York City on July 3rd. Height - 5 feet, 2 inches. Weight - 104 lbs. Eyes - blue grey. Hair - blonde. Hobbies - writing and etching. Sports - golf, tennis, riding. Favorite dog's name - "Skip-It". Horse - "Gibby."

EARLY LIFE

Wynne Gibson comes of old American stock, a descendant of the Coffin family of Nantucket. The family's ancestral home is still a landmark of the island. Wynne was educated at the Wadley School for Girls in New York, where she was not only the champion reciter, but was an ace basketball player. Her only stage appearance, as a young girl, was at an "amateur night" when she went on a dare.

STAGE CAREER

All Miss Gibson's stage life was spent in musical comedy. She played leading roles in two Lew Fields productions; "Castles in the Air," "Tangerine," "The Gingham Girl," "Little Jesse James," "City Girl" and "The Dutch Chap."

SCREEN CAREER

Coming to Hollywood, Miss Gibson, under long term contract to Paramount, appeared in "Nothing But the Truth," "The Gang Buster," "June Moon," "City Streets," "Man of the World," "Kick In," "Two Kinds

(continued)

Page 100 of 100

Page 100 of 100

Page 100 of 100

Page 100 of 100

of Women," "Ladies of the Big House," "The Strange Case of Clara Deane," "Lady and Gent," "Night After Night" and "Her Bodyguard." For MGM - "Songwriter." For RKO Radio - "The Fall Guy," "Emergency Call" and Aggie Appleby, Maker of Men." She has also appeared in "Gambling," opposite George M. Cohan, a picture made in the east.

Miss Gibson says that when (and if) she retires from the screen, she will breed and school horses for the show ring.

#####

BETTY GRABLE

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Betty Grable was born in St. Louis, Mo.
on December 18. Height 5 ft., 3 in.
Weight, 106 lbs. Blonde hair, blue eyes.
Rides horseback. Baseball fan.)

EARLY LIFE

Betty Grable's parents, Mr. and Mrs. ConnGrable, took her to Hollywood when she was a child, and when her father returned to his brokerage business in St. Louis Betty and her mother stayed on. She continued dancing lessons begun at home, and at last became a member of the Fox dancing chorus.

STAGE CAREER

She toured with Ted Fio Rito and his orchestra.

SCREEN CAREER

Betty was under contract to Samuel Goldwyn for a year, and then played the lead in "Hold 'Em Jail," RKO Radio's Wheeler and Woolsey comedy. After this, she played in innumerable short subjects. Seven months with Fio Rito and his band at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, were next, followed by a tour.

Miss Grable's big chance came when she was assigned to sing the "Let's Knock Knees" number with Edward Everett Horton in RKO Radio's "The Gay Divorcee." So excitingly did she knock knees that the studio signed her to a long term contract, and gave her the lead in the new Wheeler and Woolsey comedy.

Betty would like very much to dance with Fred Astaire, and she probably will.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

ALAN HALE

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Alan Hale was born in Washington, D. C.
Height, 6 ft., 2 in. Weight, 220 lbs.
Blond hair, blue eyes. Avocation -
science. Financially interested in
many inventions)

STAGE CAREER

After completing his education at the University of Pennsylvania, Alan Hale went on the stage, and was a Broadway player for a time, but went to Hollywood in the early days of pictures and has been there ever since.

SCREEN CAREER

Hale began his screen career as one of Biograph's leading men in the early Griffith days, having made his screen debut in 1911. From that day to this he has been active in films, and today is one of Hollywood's busiest actors.

Some of his best silent roles were in "The Covered Wagon," "Robin Hood," and "The Four Horsemen." For some years he directed for Fox and Cecil DeMille, making many films starring Leatrice Joy and Rod La Rocque. Returning to acting he has recently appeared in "The Lost Patrol," "There's Always Tomorrow," "Imitation of Life," "Little Man, What Now," "Of Human Bondage" and "Great Expectations." He has worked on the RKO Radio lot in two pictures simultaneously - Katharine Hepburn's "Little Minister" and "Grand Old Girl."

####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

MARGARET HAMILTON

(RKO Radio Pictures)

STAGE CAREER

Margaret Hamilton was a kindergarten teacher in Cleveland, but she hated it. She wanted to be an actress, so she joined the acting group at the famous Cleveland Playhouse and played twenty-five character roles in three years - invaluable training.

Her first Broadway hit was in "Another Language," and it led her directly to Hollywood.

SCREEN CAREER

She played her role in "Another Language" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and then went to the RKO Studio, where she appeared in "By Your Leave," and "Hat, Coat and Glove." She also appeared in "Dark Tower" and "As We Live."

The daughter of a Cleveland lawyer, Miss Hamilton is happily married to a New York architect, and chafes at the long separations forced by picture work. She intends to divide her time between stage and screen.

#####

THE HISTORY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

The history of the Republic of the United States of America is a story of growth and development. It begins with the first settlers who came to the New World in search of a better life. They found a land of opportunity and freedom, and they built a nation that has become a model for the world.

The early years of the Republic were marked by challenges and struggles. The young nation had to establish its identity and defend its interests against foreign powers. It was a time of great courage and sacrifice, and it was a time when the principles of liberty and justice were firmly established.

As the years passed, the Republic grew in size and power. It expanded its territory and its influence, and it became a leading nation in the world. It was a time of great achievement and progress, and it was a time when the principles of liberty and justice were put into practice.

The Republic has come a long way since its founding. It has grown into a great nation, and it has become a model for the world. It is a nation of freedom and justice, and it is a nation that has made great contributions to the world.

The history of the Republic of the United States of America is a story of growth and development. It is a story of a nation that has overcome many challenges and struggles, and it is a story of a nation that has achieved great things. It is a story of a nation that is proud of its heritage and its future, and it is a story of a nation that is committed to the principles of liberty and justice.

ANN HARDING

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Ann Harding, the daughter of the ~~late~~ Brig. Gen. George Grant Gatley, USA, and Mrs. Gatley, was born at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on August 7th. Height - 5 feet, 2 inches. Weight - 105 lbs. Eyes - blue. Hair - ash-blond. Pianist and musical student. Tennis and golf. Aviation enthusiast. Owns own plane.)

EARLY LIFE

Ann Harding's girlhood was spent at various army posts, and at as many schools. She finished her formal education at the Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr, Pa., where her dramatic coach was Otis Skinner, whose daughter was a schoolmate of Ann's. Wearying of the nomadic army life after her school days, she went to work for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in New York, as a file clerk. She disliked business, and to this day her friends like to hint that her blonde beauty had a lot to do with her getting the job.

STAGE CAREER

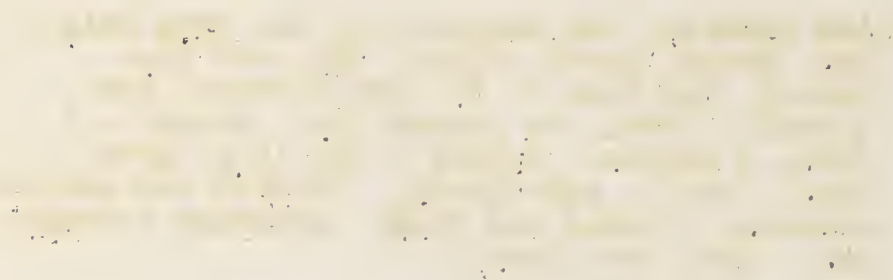
Business palling, Ann got a job with the Provincetown Players, famous Greenwich Village group, and later became the troupe's leading woman at \$35 a week, and remained with it for eight months. She also appeared with the famous Hedgerow Players of Pennsylvania. Her real professional debut was in a play called "Like a King," which never reached

(continued)



THE
JOURNAL OF THE

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1, JANUARY, 1911

1911

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
1015 N. Y. ST. N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Subscription price, \$5.00 per annum in advance.
Single copies, 15 cents.
Entered as Second-Class Matter, June 26, 1909.
Postage paid at Washington, D. C., and at additional mailing offices.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in
Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 1, 1918.

Published by the American Historical Association,
1015 N. Y. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Subscription orders, notices of change of address,
and all communications should be sent to the
Editor, American Historical Association, 1015 N. Y. St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

The Journal of the American Historical Association
is published quarterly, in January, May, September,
and November. It is devoted to the publication of
original researches in American history, and to the
discussion of historical problems. It also contains
book reviews, and notices of historical societies,
conventions, and other events of interest to
historians.

Broadway. She then spent two years in stock. It was "Tarnish" which made her a Broadway hit, and this Gilbert Emery play was followed by leading roles in "Stolen Fruit," "The Woman Disputed" and "The Trial of Mary Dugan."

SCREEN CAREER

After "Mary Dugan," Ann Harding went to Hollywood with her then husband, Harry Bannister, who was to appear in a Pasadena production of "Strange Interlude." She had no thought of a picture career, but in a week five companies had made her offers. She signed with Pathe and made her first picture, "Paris Bound." Others followed - "Her Private Affair," "Girl of the Golden West," "Condemned" and a triumph in "Holiday." Her contract was a motivating factor in Pathe's merger with RKO Radio. For the latter she made "Westward Passage," "The Conquerors," "The Animal Kingdom," "Double Harness," "The Right to Romance," "The Fountain," "The Life of Vergie Winters," and "Enchanted April." She was loaned to Twentieth Century for "Gallant Lady" and to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for "When Ladies Meet" and "Biography of a Bachelor Girl."

Miss Harding lives in Hollywood with her little daughter, Jane.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

KATHARINE HEPBURN

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Katharine Hepburn was born in Hartford, Conn. November 8th. Auburn hair, green eyes. Dislikes Hollywood social life. Spends most of her time on a small ranch.)

EARLY LIFE

Katharine Hepburn is the daughter of a prominent physician of Hartford, Conn., who strenuously objected at first, to her stage ambitions. During her college days at Bryn Mawr she was the life of the dramatic club, and left school to seek a stage career.


STAGE CAREER

Hepburn's stage beginnings were ill-starred. Whenever she managed to get a small role, the show closed or she was fired. If she was an understudy, the star was appallingly healthy, and Katharine never played the role. She was fired from the casts of "The Big Pond," "Death Takes a Holiday" and "The Animal Kingdom." She played a small role in "Art and Mrs. Bottle" with Jane Cowl, and played stock in Baltimore, which gave her valuable training. She understudied Hope Williams in "Holiday." But it was the leading role in that amusing play, "The Warrior's Husband," that brought her attention.

SCREEN CAREER

RKO Radio Pictures quickly followed a Hepburn screen test with a contract. Her work opposite John Barrymore in "A Bill of Divorcement" brought her

(continued)



1. The first part of the document is a letter from the author to the reader, explaining the purpose of the study and the methods used. The letter is dated 1998 and is addressed to the reader.

nation-wide acclaim. She appeared in "Christopher Strong" and "Morning Glory," the latter winning her the Motion Picture Academy acting award for 1933. Then came the brilliant "Little Women" and more fame. "Spitfire" followed, and then Sir James M. Barrie's "The Little Minister."

In the fall of 1933 Miss Hepburn returned to Broadway and appeared in Jed Harris' production of "The Lake." She is under long-term contract to RKO Radio.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

PERT KELTON

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Pert Kelton was born on her grandmother's cattle ranch near Great Falls, Mont., on Oct. 14. She is 5 feet, 6 inches tall; weighs 123 lbs; has hazel eyes and brown hair. Hobbies - dancing and music. Outdoor sport - swimming. Unmarried (1934). Business woman off screen.)

EARLY LIFE

Pert Kelton is the daughter of vaudeville troupers, Ed and Susan Kelton, and an aunt, Jane Kelton, was a stock star on the Pacific coast. While still a small child, Pert Travelled around the world with her parents, who appeared in India, South Africa and Australia. She made her first bow at four in a South African music hall, dowing a little dance and singing "Yankee Doodle." She went to school in London while the act toured Europe, and came back to America with them at the age of 7. School days in New York and Boston followed, and she spent a year on her Grandmother's Montana ranch. When the Kelton act went musical, Pert had to learn to play the trombone, and she detested it. However, play it she did, and became a great favorite from coast to coast. At 14, the act played the Palace, New York, and C. B. Dillingham was so impressed with the child's talents that he gave her a spot in the now-famous "Sunny."

(continued)

STAGE CAREER

On opening night it was nearly 12 before she came on but she held a restless audience with a burlesque Spanish dance and a Chaplin imitation. Charlie, in the audience, was so pleased that he sent her the cane he carried in "The Gold Rush." The next day Pert Kelton's name went up in lights beside those of Marilyn Miller, Jack Donahue, Mary Hay and Clifton Webb, and she played in "Sunny" for two years and a half. She next had a featured role in "The Five O'Clock Girl," with Mary Eaton, and at the end of the run went to Hollywood for a visit. There she bought a half interest in a hotel, the Warner Kelton, and now lives there in a specially-built penthouse. During this time she appeared with Marilyn Miller in the screen version of "Sunny," and then came back to Broadway for a part in "The DuBarry," which starred Grace Moore.

SCREEN CAREER

Back in Hollywood, she was offered the role of Constance Bennett's hard-boiled girl friend in "Bed of Roses" and was an immediate hit. RKO Radio executives at once signed her to a long-term contract. Since then she has appeared in "Meanest Gal in Town," "Sing and Like It," "Bachelor Bait" and "Lightning Strikes Twice" for RKO Radio, as well as a series of comedies with Zasu Pitts, and in "The Bowery" for Twentieth Century.

#####

FRANCIS LEDERER

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Francis Lederer was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on November 6th. Height - 6 feet. Weight - 170 lbs. Dark hair and eyes.)

EARLY LIFE

Francis Lederer, as a boy in Prague, dreamed of stage success. By day he delivered parcels for a large department store, by night he hung about the Deutsches Theater, occasionally getting a job carrying a spear. An old actor offered him tutoring in acting for \$2.50, and so manfully did young Lederer labor that he won a scholarship at the Prague Academy.

STAGE CAREER

Young Frantisek Lederer played small roles at the Deutsches, and then toured the country. Supporting famous Austrian and German stars, Lederer appeared in more than two hundred roles in a few years, and gained invaluable training. He played in everything from Shakespeare to Noel Coward. Famous feminine stars "discovered" him and made him their leading man. His first big success, however, came in Berlin, as Romeo to the Juliet of the great Elizabeth Bergner. Later he sang and danced in "The Wonder Bar," and became the sensation of Berlin. Called to London for a role in the musical comedy, "Meet My Sister," he learned English in a few weeks, but spoke it parrot-

(continued)

Manuscript Collection

(The following is a list of the

manuscripts in the collection, arranged
alphabetically by author.)

Page 100

The following is a list of the
manuscripts in the collection, arranged
alphabetically by author. The list is
in two columns, with the author's name
in the left column and the title of the
manuscript in the right column. The
list is arranged alphabetically by author's
name, and the titles are arranged
alphabetically within each author's group.

Page 101

The following is a list of the
manuscripts in the collection, arranged
alphabetically by author. The list is
in two columns, with the author's name
in the left column and the title of the
manuscript in the right column. The
list is arranged alphabetically by author's
name, and the titles are arranged
alphabetically within each author's group.

like, and couldn't even improvise a curtain speech. His first big English success was in "Autumn Crocus," which ran for eleven months, and brought him to Broadway, where his co-star was Dorothy Gish.

SCREEN CAREER Hailed as the newest and most popular New York matinee idol, he was signed by RKO Radio Pictures and made his American screen debut in "Man of Two Worlds." Loaned to Paramount for "The Pursuit of Happiness," he came back to the home lot to appear in "Romance in Manhattan," with Ginger Rogers, and as D'Artagnan in "The Three Musketeers."

Lederer neither smokes nor drinks, but is no sissy. He is modest about his popularity, serious about his work, and is an active worker in the cause of world peace.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

GENE LOCKHART

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Gene Lockhart was born in London, Ont., Canada. Medium height, blue eyes, brown hair.)

STAGE CAREER

Gene Lockhart, one of the most remarkable jacks of all trades in the entertainment world, made his debut with the famous Kilties' Band of Canada at the age of six. His father, J. Coates Lockhart, was a tenor soloist with the organization. Gene was educated in Toronto and London, England and at 15 was appearing in sketches with Beatrice Lillie. His versatility seems limitless. He has written Broadway shows. He has written innumerable song lyrics, his most famous being that to "The World is Waiting for this Sunrise." As a director, he has staged "The Warrior's Husband," "Sumurun" and many others. With his clever wife, Kathleen, he has headlined in vaudeville. In his last Broadway season, Lockhart made his greatest hit as the amiable inebriate in "Ah Wilderness" with George M. Cohan for the Theatre Guild. He has taught classes at the Junior League and the Juillard Musical Foundation; wrote two popular radio programs, and directed and appeared in "Sunday Nights at Nine" at a New York hotel.

SCREEN CAREER

It was his work in "Ah Wilderness" that sent Lockhart to Hollywood. It meant giving up other lucrative contracts, but he went, under contract to RKO Radio, and made his motion picture debut in "By Your Leave."

####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

LILY PONS

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Lily Pons was born at Cannes, on the French Riviera, of well-to-do French parents. Is slightly over five feet tall, with dark hair and eyes. Made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1931 while still in her twenties.)

EARLY LIFE

Lily Pons began her musical career as a pianist. Her music-loving parents, happy to foster her ambitions, sent her to the Paris Conservatoire, where she was graduated with highest honors. Taken ill, her doctor ordered her to abandon music for two years. Returning to Cannes to resume her career as a piano virtuoso, she met and married August Mesritz, a former music critic. One day, after hearing her sing, he realized her vocal possibilities and the teacher to whom he brought her decided at once that Pons had at last found her true vocation.

OPERA CAREER

After three years of hard study, Lily Pons made her operatic debut at Mulhouse, in Alsace. The opera was "Lakme." Engagements in France and Italy followed, always at minor opera houses. Thus, when she was recommended to Director Gatti-Casazza for New York's Metropolitan she was almost unknown in the world's great opera centers. Gatti gave her a five-year contract, and Pons made her Metropolitan debut on the memorable night of January 3rd, 1931. It was one of the most

(continued)

MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
 SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
 RE: [REDACTED]

On 10/10/68, [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

On 10/10/68, [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] 100-100000

sensational events in American operatic history. The audience gasped as she sang flawless high E's and F's, and the applause and critical commend told the world that another great star of opera had been found. Great and seldom-sung colorature roles, such as those in Bellini's "La Sonnambula" and Delibes' "Lakem," were added to the Met's repertoire. Her brunette beauty, her lovely slender figure, have helped her glorious voice make Pons one of the most glamorous and popular opera stars of all time.

SCREEN CAREER Lily Pons was signed by RKO Radio Pictures in the fall of 1934.

She has been divorced from Mesritz.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

WILLIAM POWELL

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(William Powell was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 29th. Height - 6 feet. Weight - 168 lbs. Blue eyes; dark brown hair. Sport - tennis. Bridge player. Pals - Richard Barthelmess and Ronald Coleman.)

EARLY LIFE

William Powell's family moved from Pittsburgh to Kansas City, Mo., during his boyhood, and he went to high school there with Kansas University and a legal career in prospect. His success in a school production of "The Rivals," however, decided him to be an actor. Borrowing money from an aunt, he

STAGE CAREER

attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, and though forced to leave the school before completing his course finally got a modest job in "The Ne'er Do Well" at \$40 a week. Later he played two years in "Within the Law" and appeared in two productions with Leo Ditrichstein. After a succession of other Broadway productions, he began his film career as the villain in John Barrymore's production of "Sherlock Holmes" in 1921.

SCREEN CAREER

Since his early successes, which included "The Bright Shawl" with Dick Barthelmess and "Romola," with Lillian Gish, he has appeared in scores of Hollywood productions. Paramount made him a star, and he later went to Warner Bros. He is under contract to RKO Radio for two film productions.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

GREGORY RATOFF

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Gregory Ratoff was born at Samara, Russia, on April 20. Ratoff speaks Russian, German, French and his own unique brand of English which he uses in most of his films.)

STAGE CAREER

Gregory Ratoff attended the Imperial School of Commerce at Petrograd, Russia, but insisted on being an actor, and studied for the stage, making his debut at the Maly Theatre in Petrograd at the age of 16. Later, with the Sinelnikoff Theatre, he appeared in the world premiere of Andryev's now famous "He Who Gets Slapped." The leading woman was the young actress, Eugenie Leontovich, and they were married in 1922. After playing in London and Berlin, Lee Shubert brought Ratoff to the United States, and for that producer he played 110 weeks in "Blossom Time," 67 weeks in "Castles in the Air" and 41 weeks in "Tenth Avenue." He then produced eight plays. His last Broadway appearance was in Jed Harris' "Wonder Boy."

SCREEN CAREER

RKO Radio signed him for pictures, and his work in "Symphony of Six Million" procured him a long term contract with that company. He has appeared in "What Price Hollywood," "Secrets of the French Police" and Professional Sweetheart." After producing and acting in English studios he returns to play in

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

(1960-1961)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

CHICAGO, ILL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

VIRGINIA REID

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Virginia Reid (Sampson) was born in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 13, 1916. She has long blonde hair and blue eyes. Favorite sport - hiking.)

EARLY LIFE

Virginia Reid, who dropped the Sampson for professional purposes, spent her girlhood traveling with her parents, her father being a mining engineer. In 1929 he became a state mining engineer in California, and there he settled with his family. In 1932 Virginia entered a theatrical beauty contest in Los Angeles, and won it. One of the prizes was a job posing for Henry Clive, the artist. He later employed her for much commercial work, and Virginia's pretty face has graced many Lucky Strike and Coca Cola ads. She also went to dramatic school.


STAGE CAREER

None

SCREEN CAREER

In 1934 Virginia's agent brought her to the RKO Radio studio. She was given a role in "Down To Their Last Yacht," and later a 4 year contract. She was loaned to Goldwyn for Eddie Cantor's "Kid Millions." Back at RKO Radio she appeared in shorts, and in her first RKO feature, "Grand Old Girl," with May Robson.

(continued)



Virginia was next chosen as the perfect fashion model from a group of 1,500 applicants for a role in "Roberta," which stars Fred Astaire, Irene Dunne and Ginger Rogers.

Virginia Reid, 18, is very ambitions. She is studying diction, singing dramatic interpretation. Typical Hollywood career-girl, bound to get along.

#####

the first of these is the fact that the
the second is the fact that the
the third is the fact that the
the fourth is the fact that the
the fifth is the fact that the
the sixth is the fact that the
the seventh is the fact that the
the eighth is the fact that the
the ninth is the fact that the
the tenth is the fact that the

the eleventh is the fact that the
the twelfth is the fact that the
the thirteenth is the fact that the
the fourteenth is the fact that the
the fifteenth is the fact that the
the sixteenth is the fact that the
the seventeenth is the fact that the
the eighteenth is the fact that the
the nineteenth is the fact that the
the twentieth is the fact that the

the twenty-first is the fact that the
the twenty-second is the fact that the
the twenty-third is the fact that the
the twenty-fourth is the fact that the
the twenty-fifth is the fact that the
the twenty-sixth is the fact that the
the twenty-seventh is the fact that the
the twenty-eighth is the fact that the
the twenty-ninth is the fact that the
the thirtieth is the fact that the

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

ERIK RHODES

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Erik Rhodes was born in El Reno, Okla.,
Feb. 10. Height, 5 ft., 10 in. Weight,
160 lbs. Brown hair and eyes. Fond of
music and boxing.)

EARLY LIFE

Erik Rhodes' public career has been one wherein everything started wrong and ended right. Educated at Oklahoma State University, Rhodes had romantic leading man aspirations, and wanted to sing in opera as well. He went to the stage immediately after his college days, having won The Marion Talley Dramatic Scholarship when he was 19. From that day to this, ambitions to the contrary, he has always been a comedian, using every dialect and language but his own.

STAGE CAREER

Rhodes began his career by touring 10,000 miles in Chautauqua. Coming to New York, he appeared on Broadway in "A Most Immoral Lady," starring Alice Brady, and in "The First Little Show" with Libby Holman and Clifton Webb. He also did much radio work. The musical comedy, "The Gay Divorce," that great career-maker, did that for Rhodes. He played in it with Fred Astaire and Eric Blore for a year and a half - six months of that in London.

SCREEN CAREER

Erik's work in the RKO Radio screen version, "The Gay Divorcee" as Tonetti, his original role, brought him a term contract at that studio.

CHICAGO
UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

GINGER ROGERS

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Ginger (Virginia) Rogers was born in Independence, Mo., on July 16. Height - 5 feet, 4 inches. Weight - 108 lbs. Green eyes, red hair. Dancing is her hobby and favorite way of keeping her figure trim. Also fond of swimming and tennis. Hates bridge. Married Lew Ayres, November, 1934.)

EARLY LIFE

Ginger Rogers' early girlhood was spent in Ft. Worth, Texas, and she had decided to become a school teacher when the "Charleston" dance craze swept the country. Eddie Foy, Jr., then playing in Ft. Worth, rigged up a Texas title contest, and Ginger won the State championship. Thus she started in vaudeville when she had just finished her first year in high school. In St. Louis she played a 32-week engagement with Ed Lowry.

STAGE CAREER

Ginger came to New York the first time with Paul Ash, the bandsman-master of ceremonies, and was a sensation at her debut at the Paramount Theatre. Soon she was given the lead in a musical comedy, "Top Speed." Later she played the lead in "Girl Crazy," a musical show with George Gershwin music.

SCREEN CAREER

During the Broadway run of "Girl Crazy," Ginger appeared in several pictures made at the old Paramount Long Island Studios. Her screen debut, as the flapper siren in "Young Man of Manhattan," set

(continued)

the whole movie world talking, and got her a job in "The Sap From Syracuse," "Queen High" and "Honor Among Lovers." When "Girl Crazy" closed she went at once to Hollywood, and stepped immediately into the lead of RKO Pathe's "The Tip-Off," which was followed by "Suicide Fleet." Among her hits at Warner's were "42nd Street," "Gold-Diggers of 1933" and "Twenty Million Sweethearts." Now under contract to RKO Radio Pictures, she has appeared in "Professional Sweetheart," "Rafter Romance," "Flying Down to Rio," "The Gay Divorcee" and "Romance in Manhattan." She appears in "Roberta" with Irene Dunne and Fred Astaire.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

SLEEP 'N' EAT

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Sleep 'N' Eat's real name is Willie Best. He was born in Mississippi, but Willie just doesn't remember where or when. He is tall, thin, and very dark. He likes to fish, he says)

CAREER

Willie Best drove some white folks to Hollywood from down south, went broke in southern California, and caught on with a traveling show. Film people saw him and brought him to Hollywood.

Willie has appeared in several pictures, among them "Kentucky Kennels," the RKO Radio Wheeler and Woolsey comedy, and "Little Miss Marker," the Shirley Temple picture. He has also appeared in several RKO Radio shorts. He gets a nice salary, but the studio gives him only \$5 a week spending money, as he is a come-easy-go-easy spender of the Stepin Fetchit type. The rest goes into a trust fund. He hopes, vaguely, to retire to Mississippi with enough funds to allow him to sleep, eat and fish 100 percent of the time.

#####

From Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

ANNE SHIRLEY

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Anne Shirley was born in New York City sixteen years ago. Her name was legally changed from "Dawn O'Day" to Anne Shirley, the name of the character she played in "Anne of Green Gables." She is 5 ft, 2 in. tall; weighs 100 lbs; has hazel eyes and reddish brown hair.)

EARLY LIFE

Anne Shirley has earned a living for herself and her mother since she was 14 months old. At that tender age her mother brought her to a New York department store, where she posed in baby clothes for a commercial artist. Soon the child was earning more than her mother, and the latter decided to devote her entire time to the child and her career.

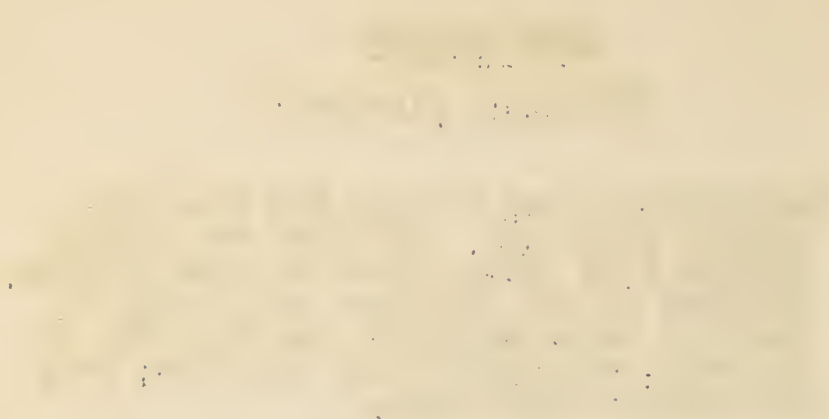
STAGE CAREER

None

SCREEN CAREER

Shortly before she was three, Anne Shirley made her screen debut in a William Farnum picture, "The Miracle Child," made in New York. Her mother decided to take the little girl to Hollywood, and her film career really began. Since that time Anne has appeared in more than fifty feature films. The early days were difficult and parts were few. Often the family budget was ten dollars a week. In spite of short financial rations, Anne attended professional school, and graduates from high school in February, 1935. Miss Shirley successfully bridged the awkward gap between child

(continued)



The first of these is the fact that the
bones of the human skeleton are not
uniformly distributed throughout the body.
The bones of the skull are the most
dense and the most numerous, and
the bones of the spine are the next
most dense and the next most numerous.
The bones of the arms and legs are
the least dense and the least numerous.

The second of these is the fact that the
bones of the human skeleton are not
uniformly distributed throughout the body.
The bones of the skull are the most
dense and the most numerous, and
the bones of the spine are the next
most dense and the next most numerous.
The bones of the arms and legs are
the least dense and the least numerous.
The third of these is the fact that the
bones of the human skeleton are not
uniformly distributed throughout the body.
The bones of the skull are the most
dense and the most numerous, and
the bones of the spine are the next
most dense and the next most numerous.
The bones of the arms and legs are
the least dense and the least numerous.

roles and grown-up parts. Known then as Dawn O'Day, she attracted wide attention by her work in RKO Radio's "Finishing School." Director George Nichols, Jr., recommended that she be tested for the lead in "Anne of Green Gables," and she won the coveted role in the L. M. Montgomery classic of girlhood from scores of aspirants. Thus, at the age of sixteen, she was given featured billing for the first time. She promptly legally changed her name to that of the leading character, which she plays. Anne Shirley is fond of both the theatre and pictures, and swimming is her favorite sport. She has a famous collection of dolls given her by stars with whom she has worked - mementoes of her years as a child player.

FRANKIE THOMAS

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Frankie (Frank M., Jr.) Thomas was born in New York City on April 9, 1922. Chief interests, outside his work, are his dogs and ponies. Most prized possession, a case of duelling pistols given him by the late dramatic star, Holbrook Blinn.)

EARLY LIFE

Young Frankie Thomas' life has been almost entirely that of the stage. A true child of the theatre, his father is Frank M. Thomas, well-known actor; his mother Mona Bruns, also of the stage, and who appears as his nurse in "Wednesday's Child," and his uncle is Calvin Thomas, Broadway actor. Though he made the traditional actors'-baby debut at nine months, in his mother's arms, he was educated at Todd School and the Professional Children's School in New York, and later trouped the country with his parents.

STAGE CAREER

Extraordinarily interested in the theatre for a child, he takes acting very seriously. On Broadway he has appeared in "Little Old Boy," "Rip Van Winkle," "Carry Nation" and "Thunder on the Left"; as well as in his biggest hit, "Wednesday's Child." He has also played in stock. This season (1934-35) he is featured on Broadway with Bert Lytell in "The First Legion."

(continued)

SCREEN CAREER

RKO Radio Pictures signed Frankie to appear in its screen version of "Wednesday's Child." His success in the role before the camera led the company to sign him to a term contract. Note that Frankie Thomas is not a child prodige successful overnight, but a thoroughly trained young actor with the theatre's blood in his veins. Only one career was and is thinkable for him - acting.

#####

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

THELMA TODD

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Thelma Todd was born in Lawrence, Mass.,
July 29. Height - 5 feet, 4 inches.
Weight - 120 lbs. Blonde hair, grey eyes.
Sports - swimming and tennis. Likes
dogs - has a cocker spaniel.)

EARLY LIFE

Thelma Todd was teaching in a grammar school in Lowell, Mass., when a local film exhibitor said (perhaps for the first time) "You ought to be in pictures." At any rate, she sent her photograph to Paramount in New York, which at that time was about to start an acting school at its Long Island studio. An interview and film test followed, and Thelma won a scholarship at the school, graduating in its first and only class with Buddy Rogers and one or two more who had made the film grade. Massachusetts Elks also chose her "Miss Massachusetts."

STAGE CAREER

None

SCREEN CAREER

Thelma Todd and her mother went to Hollywood, where the girl played several small parts for Paramount. Hal Roach signed her for five years, and she was featured in many short comedies with Laurel and Hardy and with Zasu Pitts. She later played .

(continued)



for Warner's, and became a well-known featured player in many long films. Miss Todd is now under a term contract to RKO Radio Pictures, for whom she has appeared in several feature films, notably with Wheeler and Woolsey in "Hips, Hips Hooray" and "Cockeyed Cavaliers." She likes rowdy comedy roles.

#####

HELEN WESTLEY

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Helen Westley was born in Brooklyn, New York. Made her stage debut at the age of 18. Is founder, director and member of the acting company of New York Theatre Guild.)

STAGE CAREER

Helen Westley has no peer on the American stage or screen as a portrayrer of aciduous character roles - especially crotchety old girls with hearts of gold and great senses of humor. She made her stage debut at 18, and began her climb to fame as a member of the famous Washington Square Players who turned into the more famous New York Theatre Guild. She is a founder, a director and a member of the acting company of this great organization, for which she has appeared in nearly forty productions. The Guild is her first love, theatrically speaking, and will always be first in her heart.

SCREEN CAREER

After but five pictures, Helen Westley finds herself one of the screen's most popular character comediennes. Her finest role to date has been in "Anne of Green Gables," and she is now working as the venerable dressmaker in "Roberta," with Irene Dunne, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. She also appeared in "The House of Rothschild." Her RKO Radio contract stipulates that she is always available to the Guild during the Broadway theatrical season.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

BERT WHEELER

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Bert Wheeler was born in Paterson, N. J.
on August 31. Height - 5 feet, 8 inches.
Dark hair, blue eyes. Sports - golf,
boxing matches, six-day bike races.)

EARLY LIFE

Bert Wheeler's earliest remembered desire was to become an actor, and he has been identified with show business since childhood. He left school early and haunted the back-stage areas of Broadway, doing odd jobs and learning the entertainment trade.

STAGE CAREER

In his twenties Bert was a vaudeville headliner, well-known all over this country and in London for his apple-eating act. Wheeler and his apple were famous in variety all over the world. Later he appeared in musical comedy, reaching his peak with Bobby Woolsey in Ziegfeld's "Rio Rita." The now famous team went along to RKO Radio for the filming of that show.

PICTURE CAREER

Among the Wheeler and Woolsey films have been "The Cuckoos," "Dixiana," "Half Shot at Sunrise," "Assorted Nuts," "Hook, Line and Sinker," "Peach O' Reno," "Hold 'Em Jail," "So This is Africa," "Diplomaniacs," "Hips, Hips Hooray," "Cockeyed Cavaliers" and "Kentucky Kernels."

#####



CONFIDENTIAL

(S) (U) (F) (S) (U) (F)

1. The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the activities of the [redacted] and the [redacted] in the [redacted] area.

2. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

3. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

4. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

5. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

6. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

7. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

8. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

9. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

10. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

11. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

12. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

13. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

14. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

15. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

16. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

17. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

18. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

19. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

20. The [redacted] and the [redacted] are both active in the [redacted] area.

Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

JOHN WOOD

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(John Wood was born in Sydney, Australia. Height - 5 feet, 9 inches. Weight - 145 pounds. Dark brown hair, blue eyes)

EARLY LIFE

John Wood is another of Australia's gifts to the stage and screen, which include Judith Anderson, Mona Barrie and other well-known players. He was educated at the Church of England Grammar School in Sydney, and after graduation went in for commercial art. Art not being sufficiently commercial, he tried banana farming for a year in Queensland, with no better luck. Then the theatre claimed him.

STAGE CAREER

For five years he played a variety of roles in the companies managed by the famous Australian showman, J. C. Williamson. He appeared in several plays with Mona Barrie, now a picture success in Hollywood. In November, 1933, he left his homeland to try the English theatre. Luck went with him. He went almost immediately into a London revival of the old farce, "Charlie's Aunt." It's a good luck role. Pictures claimed him.

SCREEN CAREER

He appeared in two English Quota pictures for Warner's - "Full Circle" and "Girl in the Crowd." An RKO Radio film test procured him a term contract, and after finishing work in "Wild Justice," a British Lion film,

(continued)

he came to America in January, 1935. It was just a little more than a year after leaving his Australian home to seek his fortune that he arrived in the American film capital with a good contract.

a small number of the ...
 ...
 ...
 ...



Rutgers Neilson
RKO Radio Pictures
RKO Building
Radio City, New York

Biographical Information

ROBERT WOOLSEY

(RKO Radio Pictures)

(Robert Woolsey was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Height - 5 feet, 8 inches. Reddish brown hair, brown eyes. Hobby - adding to his large library of jokes. Sports - fishing, golfing, bridge.)

EARLY LIFE

Bobby Woolsey's earliest ambition was to be a great jockey, and he began booting 'em in at the old Cleveland track while in his 'teens. A broken leg ended his racing career, and he became a bell-hop at a Cleveland hotel. Actors he met at the hotel persuaded him to try the stage.

STAGE CAREER

Woolsey finally got a job with a stock company, playing bits and handling props. He wanted to be a dramatic actor, but the manager told him that if he was anything theatrical, he was a comic, so a comic he became. He perfected a comedy routine during years in vaudeville, and his cigar and tortoise shell specs are as thoroughly identified with Woolsey as the hat and cane are with Chaplin. After appearing in many musical shows on Broadway, Bobby hit his stage peak in Ziegfeld's "Rio Rita," in which he was teamed with his present pal, Bert Wheeler.

SCREEN CAREER

Woolsey and Wheeler came to Hollywood to appear in RKO Radio's filming of "Rio Rita," and Bob has made

(continued)

Introduction

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the matter of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____

_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____

_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____

_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____
_____ of the _____

most of his comedies for that company. Among them are
"The Cuckoos," "Dixiana," "Half Shot at Sunrise,"
"Assorted Nuts," "Hook, Line and Sinker," "Peach O'Rene,"
"Hold 'Em Jail," "So This is Africa," "Diplomaniacs,"
"Hips, Hips, Hooray," "Cockeyed Cavaliers" and "Kentucky
Kernels."

#####

The first part of the document is a letter from the
President of the United States to the Congress, dated
January 3, 1862. The letter is signed by Abraham Lincoln.
The second part of the document is a report from the
Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 3, 1862.
The third part of the document is a report from the
Secretary of the Interior, dated January 3, 1862.
The fourth part of the document is a report from the
Secretary of the War, dated January 3, 1862.
The fifth part of the document is a report from the
Secretary of the Navy, dated January 3, 1862.

Continued





Brooklyn Bookbinding Co.
381
DeKalb Ave.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

10/78

The Museum of Modern Art



300079216

